



Vicksburg National Cemetery



Vicksburg National Cemetery lies on ground once manned by the extreme right of General William T. Sherman's XV Army Corps. Embracing 116 acres, the cemetery is the final resting place for 17,000 Union soldiers -- a number unmatched by any other national cemetery.

The cemetery was established in 1866, with the first burials in 1867. Soldiers buried here had originally been interred at scattered locations in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi during the campaign and siege of Vicksburg. Record keeping was haphazard under wartime conditions - grave locations were frequently lost.

"Unknown"

After the conclusion of the Civil War, the U.S. Army located and exhumed the remains of 300,000 Union veterans buried in the South. These soldiers were re-interred in various national cemeteries. Fifty-four percent of all re-interred soldiers are listed as "UNKNOWN." Seventy-five percent of the Civil War dead are listed as unidentified in the Vicksburg National Cemetery. At Salisbury, North Carolina, site of a POW camp, the national cemetery lists 99% of the 12,126 interred Federal soldiers as "UNKNOWN."

The first national cemeteries were established in 1862 by an Act of Congress to provide a burial place for "soldiers who shall die in service of the country." At the time, this provision only applied to Union Civil War dead. Following the Spanish-American War, veterans of later wars became qualified for burial in

national cemeteries. Approximately 1,300 veterans of conflicts subsequent to the Civil War are interred in Vicksburg National Cemetery. A scattering of other burials includes wives and children of veterans and government workers of the past century.

Headstones with rounded tops are found, with a few exceptions, over the graves of identified soldiers. Small, square blocks, incised with a grave number only, designate the unknown veterans. A few graves are marked by other than government-issued headstones. No one of national fame is buried in Vicksburg National Cemetery. Since 1961 the cemetery has been closed for burials except for those individuals whose applications for interment had been validated prior to that time.

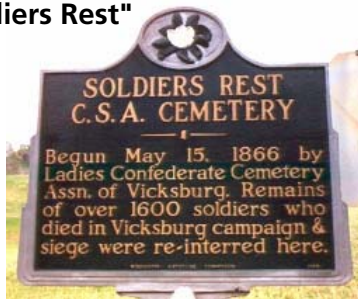
Burial Facts for Vicksburg National Cemetery

17,000 Union Troops - 13,000 unknown
2 Confederates - Reuben White (Pvt., Company D, 19th Texas Infantry)
C.B. Brantley (Sgt., Company D, 12th Bat., Arkansas S.S.)
1 Mexican War - James B. Slade (Surgeon, 15th Infantry)
1 Philippine Uprising - Charles Bartley (Pvt., Troop E, 9th Reg. Cavalry)
1 Vietnam War - Herbert L. Lunsford (Colonel, U.S. Air Force) (no body)
1 Woman Veteran - Mary K. Guido (Yeoman, U.S.N. 8th Naval District)

1 Foreign Soldier - Edgar H. Hawthorn (Royal Australian Air Force, WWII)
Highest Ranking Soldier - Brevet Brigadier General E.D. Osband (USCT. Vol Cal)

8 Veterans of more than 1 war	129 Soldiers' Wives
24 Spanish American War	9 Children
445 World War I	4 Park Superintendents
214 World War II	27 Government Workers
21 Korean War	4 Civilians
36 Servicemen	

Cedar Hill Cemetery - "Soldiers Rest"



The Vicksburg City Cemetery (Cedar Hill Cemetery) is the final resting place for the Confederate dead. The headstones are arranged by state on a terraced slope known as the Soldier's Rest. Approximately 5,000 are interred here with 3,400 unknowns. These cemeteries are perpetual memorials to

the men and women of the North and South for whom Vicksburg became the final resting place. Throughout Mississippi, there are Union and Confederate cemeteries with their tales of heroism and valor. But most haunting of all epitaphs is the simple, "*Unknown Soldier*."

To the Unknowns

"...all that really need be known about them is that they died for the greatest of all causes,

something they believed in..." Samuel Carter III

The Price in Blood



The Civil War was the deadliest conflict of this nation. 618,000 Americans died in this struggle, exceeding the nation's losses from the Revolutionary War to the early years of Vietnam combined. Twice as many men died from disease as battle. The totals are only estimates - some historians place the figure closer to 700,000.

	UNION	CONFEDERATE
Battle Deaths	110,070	94,000
Wounded	250,152	164,000
Total	360,222	258,000

"In Great Deeds..."



*"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays.
Forms change and pass...but spirits linger to consecrate the ground for the vision-place of souls.
And reverent men and women afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of,
Heart drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them,
Shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream..."*

- General Joshua L. Chamberlain

The following is the reaction a fifth grader had to Gettysburg National Military Park. This poem reflects a deep understanding of what a soldier might have felt the evening before Pickett's Charge.

*What will the morrow bring for me?
Will I ever rise again?
Or will I be lying dead in the blood,
Of a thousand other men?
I enlisted in this army,
The Union to defend.
Fighting against my brothers and,
Fighting against my friends.
Will I ever see another sunset?
Yellow, pink, and gold.
Will I never have the joys,
Of living to be old?
Will I lie forgotten on this field,
And my death remain untold?
And to my family back at home,
Will my fates never unfold?*

- Wynne Lauros
Grade 5
North Hills Elementary

